



# Grande Prairie Wind Farm

## What is the project?

Grande Prairie Wind, LLC (Grande Prairie) has applied to Western Area Power Administration (Western) to interconnect the proposed Grande Prairie Wind Farm with Western's 345-kilovolt Fort Thompson to Grand Island Transmission Line. The proposed wind farm would be a 400-megawatt facility located over approximately 54,250 acres of land in portions of Willowdale, Antelope, Grattan, Iowa, Scott, and Steel Creek Townships. The wind farm would be located on publically- and privately-owned cropland and pasture ground.

Western is the lead federal agency overseeing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process for the proposed wind farm and interconnection. Under the NEPA process, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to document the project purpose and need, alternatives, and to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the project.



## Who is Grande Prairie Wind, LLC?

Grande Prairie Wind, LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company formed as a single purpose entity to construct, own, and operate the proposed wind farm. Grande Prairie is owned by Midwest Wind Energy Development Group, LLC (MWE).

With its corporate headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, MWE is a leading developer of wind power projects in the Midwest region with a proven track record of successful projects. Since its inception, MWE has developed eight projects totaling 728 megawatts that are either in operation or under construction. MWE has an additional project development portfolio of well over 4,000 megawatts in varying stages of development. MWE is primarily responsible for all facets of project development that make a project ready for construction.

## What does the project include?

The project may include up to **266 wind turbines**. Permanent disturbance for each wind turbine generator location would be approximately 0.25 acre. Grande Prairie is considering a variety of wind turbine generator types, with capacities ranging from 1.5 to 3 megawatts. Each wind turbine generator would be mounted on a single steel tower between 262 feet and 329 feet tall and have a rotor diameter ranging from 271 feet to 385 feet, depending on the wind turbine generator model selected. Approximate total height would be between 397 feet and 521 feet when the tip of the blade is at the 12 o'clock position.

The project may also include:

- Access roads (45-60 miles of 16-ft wide new roads, upgrade 30-50 miles of existing roads)
- Underground electrical collection system (60-80 miles of buried cable, no interference with farming operations)
- Collector substation (7-15 acres of permanent disturbance)
- Possible above-ground transmission line (5-6 miles, 69-kilovolt)
- Meteorological towers (2 or more)
- Possible sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) unit
- Operations and maintenance building
- Other associated facilities.

Grande Prairie would site wind turbine generators and supporting infrastructure to optimize wind and land resources in the area while minimizing environmental impacts to the extent practicable. Grande Prairie would comply with local zoning requirements, including setbacks from residences, roads, and existing transmission and distribution lines.

Grande Prairie proposes to begin construction in spring 2014. The life of the project is expected to be a minimum of 20 years.

## Tonight:

Tonight, representatives from Western are available to explain the NEPA process and take public comments. **Comments provided at this meeting, and other comments received during the scoping period, will help Western to determine the scope of the EIS and to focus on the environmental resources most important to the public.** Grande Prairie representatives are also available to discuss the proposed project and alternatives. Thank you for your participation!

## Project EIS Schedule

Note: Dates after the scoping meeting are tentative



**Questions or  
Comments?  
Please let us know!**